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USSR

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ACCOUNT OF AN EXPLOSION NEAR A SHIP
LOADING CARGO FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No.: 1161

14 August 1944

To SEMEN.

On the 11th of August in TYRE [TIR][1], while the S.S. "Nathaniel Alexander", which is proceeding to a Soviet Northern port, was being loaded, a drum with coloxylin exploded on a barge. As a result of the damage a large [4 groups unrecovered]. The vessel was removed from the fire without suffering damage. According to our information analogous explosions of coloxylin have taken place in Iran during unloading of our own and British cargoes. [0% In the opinion of the authorities] and a specialist the cause of the explosion was the high external temperature. However, part of the coloxylin which was already in the hold of the ship has been unloaded on the orders of the KhATA[11] for investigation. Please put us in the picture about the nature of the explosion in Iran and also about the possibilities of utilising the properties of this cargo to commit acts of sabotage.

No. 647

MAY [MLJ][111]

Comments: [1] TIR: NEW YORK

[11] KhATA: the F.B.I.

[111] MLJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV.

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S/NBF/TL30
[1 Page]

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